



Saguaro National Park News Release

13-15

For Immediate Release

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Contacts: Rincon Mountain District (east) - Melanie Florez (520) 733-5153
Tucson Mountain District (west) - Richard Hill (520) 733-5158

FEBRUARY PROGRAMS AT SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK

Highlights of Saguaro National Park's programs for February include a variety of sunset and moonlight hikes in the West District; and Cactus Caravans, star parties, and patio programs in the East District. To view many other cultural and natural history programs and hikes, see the park's Website at www.nps.gov/sagu or visit us on Facebook. Interpretive programs are free, but park entrance fees apply. Program schedules are subject to change; call the visitor centers for updates or reservations.

Special Programs at Tucson Mountain District (Saguaro West, 2700 N. Kinney Road):

Feb. 2, 9 3:45 p.m. **Silhouettes at Sundown** Hike: 3 hours, 2 ½ miles

Feb. 16 4:00 p.m.

Trek along an arroyo as the setting sun magically silhouettes the Southwest's most famous icon – the giant saguaro. This walk is one-third sandy wash with a few rock outcroppings, one-third hill with a gentle grade, and one-third dirt road. Reservations required; (520)733-5158

Feb. 20 2:45 p.m. **Wasson Peak** Hike: 7 hours, 8 miles

This 6½- to 7- hour, 8-mile round-trip hike climbs 1,700 feet to the highest point in the Tucson Mountains. Enjoy the 360-degree view of the sunset before descending by the light of the moon. The hike is at an easy pace but is considered difficult due to gaining elevation and hiking after dark. Reservations required; (520)733-5158

Feb. 21 4:45 p.m. **Twilight Glow To Moon Shadows** Hike: 2½ hours, 2½ miles

This easy walk bridges sunset and darkness on a triangular route, going up a gentle grade, then down a sandy wash, and a return slightly uphill by dirt road. Hikers will experience the desert both in the twilight glow and in moon shadows. Reservations required; (520)733-5158

Feb. 22 4:00 p.m. **Sunset Hike** 4 hours, 3 ½ miles

A 3½ - to 4-hour, 3½-mile round-trip route gains 700 feet with most of the elevation change in switchbacks near the ridgeline, where hikers will watch the sunset before descending under moonlight. Reservations required; (520)733-5158

Feb. 23 4:45 p.m. **Moon Take Night, Make Day** Hike: 3 hours, 2 ½ miles

Hikers on this 2½-mile, 3-hour route travel a sandy desert wash and climb a terraced hill with a gentle grade as the day transitions to night, then enjoy the sunset before returning on a road in the moonlight. This hike is mostly easy but includes a few high-stepping rocky outcroppings in the wash. Reservations required; (520)733-5158

Feb. 25 7:00 p.m. **Moonrise Over The Mountain** CampfireTalk: 45 minutes

Relax around a campfire on the Red Hills Visitor Center patio as the full moon rises above the cactus forest. The program is approximately 45 minutes long. Bring a lawn chair and warm clothing. No reservations required.

Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23 2:15 p.m. **The CCC in Saguaro NP** Talk: 45 minutes

The Civilian Conservation Corps was a Great Depression-era work program that greatly influenced national, state, and county parks. Saguaro's trails, picnic areas, and scenic drives were established during this program. Old photos and movie clips illustrate a brief history of the CCC in this area. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27 2:15 p.m. **Those Who Came Before** Talk: 45 minutes

Learn about the Hohokam, indigenous people who inhabited this area from about A.D. 250 to about A.D. 1450. *Wheelchair accessible.*

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Special Programs offered at the Rincon Mountain District (Saguaro East):

February 1, 15, 22 10:30 a.m. **Cowboys in the Rincons** 2.5 Mile Guided Hike

Explore the history and nature of the Rincon Valley on this 2-hour, 2 ½-mile hike, where homesteaders and ranchers met, when cowboys and *vaqueros* roamed the saguaro forests and mountain heights. Sturdy footwear and water are recommended. **MEET AT LOMA ALTA TRAILHEAD.**

February 2, 9, 25 11:00 a.m. **Meet Your 4-Legged Rangers!** *Presentation*

Come meet the horses of Saguaro National Park in the visitor center parking lot. Discover the roles these animals have played in the history of the National Park Service.

February 5, 19, 26 3:00 p.m. **Reptiles and Amphibians of the Sonoran Desert** *Presentation*

Join park naturalist Bob Brandner for this 30-minute presentation to discover the fascinating world of reptiles and amphibians. *Wheelchair accessible.*

February 6, 13, 20 & 27 2:00 p.m. **Rangering in the Rincons** 2.5 Mile Guided Hike

Come explore and exercise with a park ranger to discover some of the finest hiking destinations in the Rincon Mountains. Sturdy shoes and water are recommended.

February 7, 14, 21, 28 3:00 p.m. **Candid Camera** *Presentation*

Where are the mountain lions? Join park staff to view real video and candid snapshots of wildlife, right here at Saguaro National Park! You will find out about recently discovered species and discuss the loss of habitat of some of our large mammals.

February 8 7:00 p.m. **Dark of the Moon Hike** 2.5 Mile Guided Hike

Join a park naturalist to explore the desert during the "Dark of the Moon". Sturdy walking shoes and water are recommended. Reservations required; (520)733-5153.

February 12 3:00 p.m. **Here Come the Hummers** *Presentation*

Join a park naturalist in the visitor center auditorium to learn about the fast-moving lives of the Sonoran Desert's hummingbirds – those that live here year-round and soon-to-return migrants.

February 14 7:00 p.m. **Star Party** *Illustrated Program & Activity*

Join park naturalists for an introduction to astronomy and a look at the desert night sky. Telescopes and binoculars will be available. Reservations required; (520)733-5153. Wheelchair accessible.

February 24 3:00 p.m. **Sunset/Moonlight Hike** 5 Mile Guided Hike

View the Arizona sunset from a perch high in the foothills of the Rincon Mountains, then experience the magic of a walk through the moonlit Cactus Forest. Reservations required; (520)733-5153.

February 27. 3:00 p.m. **The Expedition of Juan Bautista de Anza** *Presentation*

Join park ranger Al Watson in the visitor center auditorium to retrace the steps of Juan Bautista de Anza on his historic expedition of 1775 – 1776. What discoveries were made and hardships endured as these intrepid travelers made their way from Tubac, Arizona to San Francisco, California. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Daily Programs

The park's two districts offer additional daily interpretive programs not listed here. Contact either of our visitor centers for updated schedules, or visit our website online at <http://www.nps.gov/sagu/planyourvisit/things2do.htm>.

Visitor Center Locations/Phone Numbers

Both visitor centers are open daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, except Christmas Day.

Red Hills Visitor Center (Saguaro WEST)
2700 North Kinney Road
Tucson, AZ 85743
(520) 733-5158

Rincon Mountain Visitor Center (Saguaro EAST)
3693 South Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85730
(520) 733-5153

For more information about Saguaro National Park and some of its partners, Friends of Saguaro National Park, Western National Parks Association, and the Rincon Institute, visit these websites:

www.nps.gov/sagu

www.friendsofsaguaro.org

www.wnpa.org

www.rinconinstitute.org

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